

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 11, 2010

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

Request for Approval to Add Funding (\$674,414: \$546,209 Federal Funds, \$128,205 Special Funds) and Extend through FY11 BLNR/RCUH Contract No. 48518 for the Division of Aquatic Resources' Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey Project

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to amend/extend an existing Project Agreement (Contract No. 48518) between the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). Amendment No. 10 will add funding and allow continuation of the project from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Amendment No. 10 provides \$546,209 in Federal funds and \$128,205 in LNR 153 Commercial Fisheries Special Funds. Federal funding is being provided by both the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (\$306,209) and the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$240,000). The State Special Funds are being used to provide the required State matching component for both grants. Extension of the contract will allow continuation of RCUH's services in implementing the project. RCUH's assistance is required in order for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to meet project goals and objectives in a timely way.

The recreational fishing survey project, which began in 2001, includes fisheries research activities that support DAR's mission in the management of Hawaii's fishery resources. Although the project includes components relevant to all of DAR's programs, its main purpose is to conduct surveys and collect recreational fish catch data. This data will in turn be used to determine effort of private boats and shoreline fishing modes. Direct intercept surveys with shoreline and recreational boat fishermen will be conducted statewide with the following data being collected: catch, effort, species, gear type methods, disposition of catches or releases, and demographic information of the angler. The survey data is then processed and converted into baseline data to reflect the amount of fishing pressure exerted on the marine resources, i.e. the amount of resources being taken and the rate of removal of these same resources. Ultimately, all the data will be used for fishery management and/or conservation measures.

This project is a long-term monitoring project, and extension is required because only the procurement of long-term data sets will result in meaningful analysis that will facilitate sound management decisions. Generally, fish stock monitoring requires at least 5-10 years of data collection before trends in harvest and effort can be detected.

Approval to amend/extend the Project Agreement is being requested concurrently from the Governor, through the Department of Budget and Finance for review and approval. Also, Amendment No. 10 to the Project Agreements is currently being prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form. Due to the uncertainty of the State's fiscal situation, DAR is aware that implementation of Amendment No. 10 is dependent upon receipt of all required approvals and the availability of funds and that funding restrictions may occur at any time.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, amend/extend a Project Agreement (Contract No. 48518) with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii for FY 11."

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Polhemus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAN POLHEMUS
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura H. Thielen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson